

EAST OREGONIAN

SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @EOSPORTS

1B

Sports shorts

UConn again the top seed

TAMPA BAY (AP) — Geno Auriemma and his UConn Huskies are ready to begin their quest for a third straight national championship.

The Huskies earned the first overall in the women's NCAA Tournament and placed in the Albany Region. They are looking for their 10th overall title, which would tie Auriemma with UCLA men's coach John Wooden for most all-time.

Joining the Huskies as top seeds in the 64-team tournament that begins Friday are Maryland, South Carolina and Notre Dame.

Notre Dame and UConn, former Big East rivals, met in the national championship game last season as undefeated teams with the Huskies coming away with the victory.



Rose submits application for reinstatement

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Pete Rose has submitted a new request to be reinstated to baseball.

Rose agreed to the lifetime ban in August 1989 following an investigation for Major League Baseball by outside lawyer John Dowd that concluded the career hits leader bet on the Reds to win while managing the team.

Rose applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and met in November 2002 with Commissioner Bud Selig, who never ruled on the application.

Rob Manfred succeeded Selig in January.

Manfred said after meeting with the Los Angeles Dodgers in spring training on Monday that he has a formal request from Rose.

"What I intend to do is be in communication with his representatives, and we'll talk about how we'll handle it from a process perspective," he said.



Rose

"They're pretty doggone physically imposing. Somebody said that the Portland Trail Blazers are the only team in America that was taller."

— Roy Williams
North Carolina coach on No. 1 Kentucky

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1871 — The National Association of Professional Baseball Players is organized to replace the amateur National Association.

1897 — Bob Fitzsimmons knocks out Jim Corbett in the 14th round to win the world heavyweight title in Carson City, Nev. It's the first boxing match photographed by a motion picture camera.

2010 — Michael Jordan becomes the first ex-player to be a majority owner in the NBA. The Board of Governors unanimously approves Jordan's \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

INSPIRATIONAL VICTORY



Hans Rockwell, seated, finished his high school wrestling career with a record of 160-2 and four state championships. He drew his inspiration from younger brother Mateo, 9, who defeated testicular cancer when he was one year old.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Riverside wrestler gains strength from family hardship

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Having just pinned the final opponent of his high school career, Hans Rockwell extended a single index finger toward the crowd at Portland's Veteran's Memorial Coliseum.

For many reasons, Rockwell's fourth class 3A state championship was a special one.

The kid who had entered the Riverside wrestling room as a wiry 106-pounder who had never won a major title, had just finished off a four-year run of 160 wins and only two losses.

He'd also become the first Riverside wrestler to win four OSAA titles (each coming at a different weight class), and just the second to ever pull it off for a local program.

But for Rockwell, the best part of his historical campaign was getting to finish it in front of the person who inspired him every step of the way.

Up in the stands, at the other end of Rockwell's pointed finger that day, Mateo Rockwell looked like any other 9-year-old cheering on his big brother, thrilled to be attending his first state finals.

But by the time he was forming complete sentences, Mateo had already beaten an adversary more sinister than any Hans would ever see in the ring.

"When my brother was a baby he was diagnosed with testicular cancer." Hans said during a break in practice this season. "Definitely it was tough ... and I feel like I've won a lot of matches because I've been thinking of that stuff."

"That's pretty much my true inspiration. It was pretty sweet, pointing up at the crowd letting him know that he's the inspiration behind it all."

Mateo, a third grader who loves soccer, PE class and when his brother lets him win their living-room wrestling matches, said he definitely received the message.

"I felt like I was a special person to him," said the

"When my brother was a baby he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Definitely it was tough ... and I feel like I've won a lot of matches because I've been thinking of that stuff."

— Hans Rockwell,
Riverside wrestler, 3A state champion

See ROCKWELL/2B

College basketball

Eastern Washington going to NCAAs for 2nd time

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Eastern Washington coach Jim Hayford's early memories of the NCAA Tournament include using pencils and paper as a child to make his own bracket.

Now, he can add another fond memory.

"To see your name there for the first time ever is a really cool moment," said Hayford, whose Eagles heard their name called when the brackets were announced Sunday.

No. 13 seed Eastern Washington, perhaps best known as the perennial FCS football power with the red turf field, is in the tournament for the first time since 2004 and only the second time in its 32-year history as a Division I program. The Eagles will play fourth-seeded Georgetown

More inside

NCAA tournament bracket

Page 2B

on Thursday in Portland, Oregon.

Eastern Washington (26-8) needed a big second half comeback fueled by Tyler Harvey, the nation's leading scorer at 22.9 points per game, to beat Montana in the Big Sky Conference title game Saturday and advance to the NCAA Tournament.

Harvey was pleased with the 13th seed and the opponent.

"They gave us a lot of respect," Harvey said of the selection committee. "We are fortunate for that."

Harvey was also pleased by the enthusiastic crowd that gathered at

See NCAA/2B



AP Photos/Michael Albans

Eastern Washington coach Jim Hayford hugs guard Tyler Harvey(1) after Eastern Washington defeated Montana 69-65 in an NCAA college basketball game for the championship of Big Sky Conference tournament in Missoula, Mont., Saturday.

Prep roundup

Rockets, Cougs open with wins

East Oregonian

BOARDMAN — Ten hits and no errors helped the Pilot Rock softball team get a smooth start to its season in a 12-0 five-inning win over Riverside on Monday.

Rebekka Holman drew opening-day honors for the Rockets (1-0) and struck out six while allowing two hits over four innings for the win. Tehya Ostrom relieved her and struck out the side in the fifth.

"Pitching really seemed to be the difference today," said Pilot Rock Darin Fitzpatrick.

Three runs in the top of the first inning gave the Rocket pitchers a cushion to start, and the offense enacted the mercy rule with an eight-run burst in the fifth.

Rebekah Roe (2 for 3) and Bailey Weinke (2 for 3) paced the Rockets.

"It was a good start to the season," Fitzpatrick said. "We made a couple mistakes but we did some good things and we took advantage of their mistakes when they made them."

Riverside (0-1) committed five errors.

PILOT ROCK 12, RIVERSIDE 0 (5 innings)		R		H		E	
PR	300	18	—	12	10	0	
RHS	000	00	—	0	2	0	
Rebekka Holman, Tehya Ostrom (5) and Bailey Weinke, Rebekah Roe (4), Melendez, Whitehead (5) and S. Gonzalez. W — Holman. L — Melendez. 2B — Roe (Pilot Rock).							

ECHO 15, HEPPNER 4 — At Heppner, the Cougars made the most of their many base runners and scored 12 runs in the final three innings to pull away in their season opener on Monday.

"That fifth inning we started the inning with a walk and an error and it just kind of piled up like that," said Heppner coach Petra Payne. "Other than that I think it went well."

With her sophomore pitchers still locating the strike zone, Echo (1-0) drew 13 walks to keep pressure on the Heppner (0-1) defense.

It cracked during Echo's seven-run fifth.

"They hit the ball well, I was happy with our defense," Payne said. "Those two errors weren't too bad for the first game of the year, it's just they came in untimely situations."

Echo sophomore Mackenzie Gon-

See ROUNDUP/2B

Wizards' high-speed offense beats Blazers

WASHINGTON (AP) — After letting a 25-point lead dwindle to three, the Washington Wizards held on to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 105-97 Monday night, behind John Wall's 21 points, 11 assists, nine rebounds, two blocks — and one head-first dive into the fifth row of the stands.

Wall was truly everywhere, running the Wizards' high-speed offense to the tune of a 25-4 edge in fast-break points.

Two nights after becoming the first NBA team to trail by 18 at halftime before eventually winning by 16, in a home victory against Sacramento, the Wizards were the ones who nearly blew a large advantage.

But they held on for their fourth consecutive victory, a streak that began right after a 4-13 stretch.

The Wizards, who slid from the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference to No. 5 entering Monday, got 23 points and sev-

Basketball	
Washington	Portland
105	97

en assists from Bradley Beal, 16 points apiece from Paul Pierce and Marcin Gortat, and 12 points and seven rebounds from Nene, who returned after a two-game absence.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and Nicolas Batum added 12 points and a season-high 15 boards for Portland, which had won three games in a row and eight of its last nine.

On a key late sequence, with the outcome still in doubt, Wall blocked a shot at one end — Portland pleaded for a goaltending call — then sprinted the other way and kicked the ball over to Pierce, whose 3-pointer made it 99-90 with 2 minutes left.